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comprising a large number of objective and psychological factors. A great deal of what Dr. Lowie says about the character and determination of cultural traits applies to culture as a process, but does not apply to culture as a complex of a relatively uniform temporal level. But it is precisely culture in this latter aspect which is always considered by those who try to reach an adequate interpretation or "understanding" of culture, whether primitive or modern, and this task, of course, necessarily involves a careful examination of historical, but also of individual and of socio-psychological factors. Again, the great theoretical difficulties arising out of the coexistence of certain deterministic tendencies in culture with factors of an accidental character have been passed over in silence by our author. Considering that no proper weighing of the classical evolutionary theories of cultural development as contrasted with recent more strictly historical tendencies seems possible without some insight into the nature of these relations, some consideration was due them even in so elementary a treatise.

A. A. GOLDENWEISER.

*A History of Architecture.* By FISKE KIMBALL, M.Arch., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Architecture, University of Michigan, and GEORGE HAROLD EDGELL, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Fine Arts, Harvard University. [Harper's Fine Arts Series.] (New York and London: Harper and Brothers. 1918. Pp. xxiii, 621. \$3.50.)

WITHIN a few more than a brief six hundred pages, including a copious and valuable index, the authors have indeed given to us a complete history of all the architecture of the world, from the Pyramids to the Woolworth Building, bound in a single octavo volume, not too heavy to hold in the hand.

It is complete, in the sense that it leaves hardly a corner of the globe unmentioned, although in such narrow compass, many things may be only mentioned, not elaborated; yet space is found to at least allude to some buildings rarely mentioned in histories of architecture, such as the work of the Central American and Peruvian civilizations, and in such outlying regions as Java and Cambodia. Especially brilliant is the full, novel, and absorbing treatment of the early Christian period in the West, and the parallel Byzantine period in the East.

To accomplish this feat, succinctness was necessary; and of this the authors have shown themselves past masters. Over and over again the result of profound and prolonged research is summed up in two or three lines of text.

Such a book is naturally not suited nor intended for beginners. It presupposes a reader already tolerably familiar with the subject. For such an one, it is filled with new and interesting information, or with pregnant hints that such information exists, and indications of where it may be obtained, touching the latest researches and conclusions.

Note, for instance, on page 12 the brief allusion to the early Semitic invasion of Egypt; and, a few lines further along, another to the Thinite period; both full of suggestiveness for further inquiry. It is strictly a *compendium*—a weighing together—and careful comparison of all the building that has ever been done.

The terseness and clarity in which our authors excel is notable in almost each word; while here and there are phrases which sum up a volume. Thus on page 57, "Beyond the borders even of Hellenistic Greece, Parthia imitated her clumsily and Rome became her most faithful pupil", or at the very opening of the chapter on Greek architecture, "The Greek architects devoted themselves above all to the problems of the column and lintel, creating forms which no later Western people has ever wholly forgotten". Could more be expressed in a dozen words? Especially neat is the comparison, on page 217, of the word Romanesque as applied to architecture, with the word Romance, as applied to language, covering and clearing up a controversy with a single illuminating word. Thus again, the comparison of the regular row of smaller arches on top of the Pont du Gard with the triglyphs of a Doric temple fairly sparkles with the light thrown by each example upon the other.

Following each chapter is a most useful chronological tabulation of the buildings embraced in the period under discussion, together with an invaluable bibliographical memorandum of works that specialize upon it.

Especially pleasant it is to read a book wherein the religious and patriotic prejudices, heretofore so frequent, are discarded, and the subject is discussed with scientific precision and freedom from emotional bias. To read it is like travelling by day through regions before traversed only at night.

JOHN BEVERLEY ROBINSON.

*Histoire Ancienne de l'Afrique du Nord.* Par STÉPHANE GSELL, Professeur au Collège de France. Tome II., *L'État Carthaginois*; Tome III., *Histoire Militaire de Carthage*. (Paris: Hachette et Compagnie. 1918. Pp. 475, 424. 10 fr. each.)

THE first half of volume II. of this great work deals with the topography of Carthage and with her possessions in Africa. Excavations made on the site of Carthage bring out the fact that the city goes back at least to the seventh century before our era. For many of the dependent villages and cities in Africa, also, a careful study by the author and by other French scholars of archaeological remains and of the literary sources has made it possible to write a brief historical sketch. The strong predilection of the Carthaginians for the sea is shown by the fact that there were no towns in the interior with Phoenician names, but that Carthaginian colonies are found on the coast along the Mediterranean all the way from the modern Ras Bergaouad to Tangier and on the Atlantic side as far south as fateful Agadir.